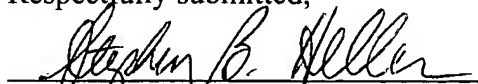


**REMARKS**

Enclosed herewith is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified patent application, which is a divisional application of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/798,608 filed March 2, 2001.

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 2-17 have been canceled.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen B. Heller", is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen B. Heller

Registration No. 30,181

COOK, ALEX, MCFARRON, MANZO,  
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.  
200 West Adams Street - Suite 2850  
Chicago, IL 60606  
(312)236-8500